‘Fortnite - Battle Royale’ is a free to play section of the game ‘Fortnite’. The game sees 100 players dropped on to an island from a ‘battle bus’ where they have to compete until one survivor remains. The last remaining player on the island wins the game. Players have to find items hidden around the island, such as weapons, to help them survive longer in the game. To make the game harder, there is an added twist called ‘the storm’, which reduces the size of the island from the start of gameplay, making the players closer together in proximity. The game is available on PC, PlayStation 4, Xbox One, Mac and iOS.

News site Forbes said it had seen “dozens” of reports online of people who said their accounts had been compromised by hackers. Hackers gained access to users accounts in the game and spent hundreds of pounds in fraudulent charges.

Hackers have also used ‘Battle Pass’ to compromise their game. Wearing headphones makes it difficult for parents to hear what exactly is being said and children may be exposed to inappropriate language. Fortnite includes really good reporting features for players either cheating or misbehaving, and work towards banning one of the best online gaming communities.

Fortnite-accounts-hacked-how-to-protect-yourself-and-what-to-do-if-youve-been-compromised/#140c9e7ca7f9

It may seem like a simple tip, but it is important that your child selects a strong password when creating an account, particularly if a credit/debit card is associated with the account. This will help reduce the risk of their account being hacked.

‘FREE’ TO PLAY

The game is free to play. However, if playing on Xbox, you need an Xbox gold subscription to play the game which is chargable.

GAMEPLAY

The game was released on mobiles in April 2018 meaning it can be played on the go. The game is available outside of the home, parents may not be aware of how long their child is on the game.

Microtransactions

New featured items are released daily and are only available to purchase within 24 hours of their release. These are cosmetic items, called ‘skins’, ‘gliders’ and ‘emotes’, which change the look of characters to offer an extra experience in the game play. Once purchased, the player has full use of these in the future. The designs are made admirable for players to purchase and even celebrities are endorsing them. Also available to purchase in the game is a ‘Battle Pass’. When a new ‘Battle Pass’ is released, users can pay a set amount of money to receive more rewards (cosmetics) by progressing through different tiers. Whatever agreements parents have about scams and how they should never share their username or password with people in order to gain anything for the game.

Parents can use parental controls on Xbox and PC to limit the amount of matches your child is playing games on the devices. Be aware that the game is available on iOS and will soon be available on all mobiles. With this in mind, it is worth having a conversation with your child to discuss and agree how long you would like them to spend on games. Even though the game is free to play, it may be worth using a limit of the amount of matches they play through rather than a time limit.

Look out for V-Bucks Scams

It is important that your children are aware of the scams that they may come across in association with the game. Open up conversation with them about scams and how they should never share their username or password with people in order to gain anything for the game.